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ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

YEAR, 1942.

ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Essex Education Committee.

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In accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education, I have the honour to submit to you the 34th Annual Report on Medical Inspection and Treatment for the year ended 31st December, 1942, for that part of the Administrative County of ESSEX for which the County Council is the Education Authority.

At the special request of the Board of Education, the Report is considerably curtailed and is confined to a brief summary of the essential statistics and changes.

I wish again to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Education and School Medical Committees, the Chief Education Officer and his Staff, Head Teachers and the Medical, Dental, Nursing and Clerical Staffs for invaluable co-operation and assistance.

W. A. BULLOUGH.

School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,  
County Hall,  
Chelmsford.  
1943.

ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the  
Year 1942.

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The need for economy referred to in previous Reports is responsible for the curtailment of this Report.

1. SCHOOL POPULATION.

The Elementary School population at the end of the year was 101,283 (526 Depts.) with an average attendance of 84,694. There are 33 Secondary and Technical Schools with 14,605 pupils on books.

2. STAFF.

As mentioned in last year's Report, Dr. T.P. Puddicombe, Deputy County and Deputy School Medical Officer, retired in March 1942, after 22 years loyal and valued service. The Central Medical Staff was re-organised, G. G. Stewart, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H., being promoted to the post of Deputy County and Deputy School Medical Officer and J.W. Pickup, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., was appointed as Senior Medical Officer for the School Medical Section and commenced duty on 1st April, 1942. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the School Medical work, Dr. Pickup was called up to H.M. Services in December, 1942, and has not been replaced. Three other Medical Officers were also called up and two left to take up other appointments. Two temporary whole-time and three part-time Medical Officers were appointed to fill the vacancies.

Mr. J. F. Darbyshire, Temporary Ophthalmic Specialist, left in January, 1942, and was replaced by Miss L.H. Macfarlane, M.D., D.O.M.S., in March, 1942, and the ophthalmic work has since been carried out with her whole-time services and the continued part-time services of Messrs. T. Collyer Summers, F.R.C.S., E.J. Baldwin, M.B., B.Ch., D.O.M.S., H. D. Smart, M.D., B.S., and S. G. Corner, M.D., D.O.M.S., with the additional part-time services of Mr. C. L. Gimblett, M.D., F.R.C.S.

One Dental Surgeon was called to the Services, seven resigned and the arrangement with Southend County Borough, under which the part-time services of their Senior Dental Surgeon and Dental Attendant were available, was terminated during the year. Nine temporary Dental Surgeons were appointed.

3. MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Co-ordination has continued between the Medical Staffs of the Public Health and School Medical Services and has been of considerable advantage to both, particularly during the present emergency, when there have been so many changes of staff.

Routine inspections have continued as far as possible on pre-war lines and Table I at the end of the Report shows



that there were 79,741 Routine inspections and 46,555 Special inspections, a total increase of 23,225 over that of the previous year. In view of Circ. 1604 of the Board of Education and the 'call-up' of Medical Officers, the Committee decided that as from the 1st January, 1943, the Medical Inspection of Entrants and Leavers and, whenever possible, the Intermediates should continue to be carried out.

#### 4. TREATMENT.

(a) Minor Ailments. The Minor Ailment Clinics have continued to render excellent service, additional clinics being opened at Romford, Upminster, and Wickford.

At the 56 Clinics, 22,209 individual children made 41,191 attendances.

(b) Nose and Throat Conditions. 1,179 children were operated on at the various Hospitals under the County Scheme for the removal of tonsils and adenoids and 1,456 received other forms of treatment. In view of the lack of uniformity in the fees paid to the Hospitals and requests from the Hospital Authorities for an increase in the fees, the arrangements were reviewed by the Committee. It was decided that as from the 1st January, 1943, (1) regular Ascertainment Clinics should be held at various Centres at which children referred for operation should be examined by an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, and (2) an increased standardised fee should be paid to each Hospital Authority under the Scheme; the operation should be performed by an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon and Anaesthetist approved by the Board of Education; and the child should be in Hospital for one night previous and one night following the operation, an additional fixed maintenance payment to be made for each day if the Surgeon recommends a further stay.

Unfortunately, owing to the call on hospital services there is often a long waiting list for the cases at several of the hospitals, causing delay in treatment.

(c) Skin Conditions. Scabies among school children has continued to be prevalent. From the reports of the School Medical Inspectors it would appear that in some areas more cases have occurred but on the whole the incidence diminished somewhat towards the end of the year. Under the Scabies Order, 1941, co-operation has continued with the Local Sanitary Authorities in combating this condition. Combined Treatment Centres, First Aid Posts, &c. and their personnel have been made use of by the Local Sanitary Authorities for treatment purposes. In 1941 it was decided to employ the part-time services of two Lay Assistants as an experiment in two of the more populous areas in order to assist the School Nurses in the treatment of Scabies and Uncleanliness. This arrangement has proved successful and has been continued in 1942. It has been of great assistance in relieving the School Nurses of the more routine work.

Arrangements continue under which children suffering from skin conditions are examined by Dr. Arthur Burrows, Skin Specialist, at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, and cases requiring X-ray treatment for ringworm of the scalp are dealt with at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney.



(d) Dental Defects. Mr. S. K. Donaldson, Senior Dental Officer, reports:-

"Difficulty in keeping up the Dental Staff to the pre-war strength of 18 whole-time Dental Surgeons continues to be a problem. Owing to the delay in filling vacancies caused by the continued demands of H.M. Forces and members of the County Dental Staff taking up appointments under other Authorities or taking up private practice, the average strength throughout the year has probably not exceeded the equivalent of 14 Dental Surgeons. Disorganisation caused by changes in the Dental Attendant Staff and delay in their training has also been an added factor in the diminution of the work performed. Transport difficulties have caused the loss of many valuable hours of clinical work and attempts to duplicate equipment to avoid this have not been very successful due to the prior call of the Forces on stocks held by the manufacturers.

"For these reasons, the number of inspections (23,505) was considerably less than for the previous year (37,542). The number of inspections of specials, however, shows an increase of 2,318, this being accounted for by the policy of asking School Medical Inspectors to direct gross conditions found at Medical Inspections to the dental clinic for inspection and treatment. This policy is adopted chiefly in areas temporarily without the services of a Dental Officer and ensures that such areas are not completely neglected.

"Although the number of attendances for treatment increased by 1,248, the actual work performed in fillings and extractions was less than that for the previous year, except in fillings of temporary teeth, which increased by 572. Although this is valuable work and of paramount importance in educating the nation to the value of complete dental treatment, I am of the opinion that, under present conditions, the time spent on this and on orthodontic treatment might be more advantageously employed in the treatment of the permanent dentition.

"It is to be regretted that orthodontics, a valuable contribution in prophylactic dentistry, cannot fully be maintained. The Board of Education have suggested that this work should only be carried out when time permits and the more immediate duties of a Dental Officer have been completed. It is, however, difficult for a Dental Officer to refuse cases which in his opinion would materially assist in the prevention of caries in a particular mouth, and as this work requires the guidance of an expert, who is not available in these days, I am of the opinion that a more rigorous application of the Board of Education recommendations should be enforced.

"It is gratifying however, to report that in these difficult times 3.7 permanent teeth are filled to every permanent tooth extracted, which figure compares favourably with the figure of 2.3 for the last normal year of the service (1938).

"Extractions of permanent and temporary teeth are down by 11,723; this figure is I fear not a true indication of the dental health of the children, but rather a demonstration of the difficulty of arranging anaesthetic clinics to suit the convenience of all County services.



"The incidence of gum conditions appears to be higher and, although many cases are traceable to rough edges of carious teeth or calculus, I think many are due to damage by unserviceable tooth brushes. This may be explained by the scarcity of bristles for making tooth brushes, and their consequent high price makes the brushes beyond the means of many, and in others continues their use to the stage when they are a menace to the mouth toilet.

"The arrangement continued with the Colchester Borough Education Committee, under which the services of the County Dental Surgeon for that area is available for treatment of Colchester Borough cases for one session weekly.

"The services of the County Dental Staff also continued to be available for the other Health Services, viz., Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Public Assistance, Mental Deficiency and Blind Persons and their dependants. This work is mainly carried out on Saturday mornings, during school holidays and other times when schools are closed."

(e) Crippling Defects. The Orthopaedic Ascertainment and After Care Clinics have continued, the Orthopaedic Surgeons being Mr. T. A. Ogilvie, F.R.C.S., Mr. A. M. A. Moore, F.R.C.S., and Mr. B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S.

Ascertainment Sessions held number 58 with 1,339 attendances. Hospital Treatment has continued at the Oldchurch County and other Hospitals, including the St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester, 74 individual children having received periods of treatment. At After Care Clinics 10,147 attendances were made.

(f) Heart Conditions. Arrangements continued under which children with heart conditions are examined by Dr. William Evans at the Cardiac Clinic at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford. During the year 92 (46 boys and 46 girls) were seen and of these 18 (8 boys and 10 girls) were advised restriction in exercises. The remainder were reported on as being satisfactory. It is hoped that fuller advantage will be taken of the facilities at this Clinic during the coming year.

(g) Visual Defects. See note re Ophthalmic Staff under paragraph 2. Ophthalmic clinics continued to be held at various Centres throughout the County: 4,232 children were examined, 2,082 being prescribed spectacles and 1,959 are reported to have obtained these. There has been difficulty at some of the clinics in dealing with the large number of cases on the waiting list but every endeavour is being made to overtake the arrears by the increased use of part-time Ophthalmic Specialist service. Dr. L. H. Macfarlane, the whole-time Temporary Ophthalmic Specialist, attends the Out-patients Department at Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, once a week, and finds this arrangement of great advantage as cases referred by her to the Hospital for second opinion can then be discussed.

(h) Speech Defects. The Speech Therapist, Miss W. Cooke, has continued to hold regular sessions at Dagenham, Romford, and Hornchurch and additional clinics have been opened at Woodford, Chelmsford and Ongar. 172 cases were under treatment at these clinics during 1942 and of these, 23 were discharged, 16 suspended, 9 ceased attendance, 9 left school, 7 left the district and 8 refused treatment.



(i) Uncleanliness. See Table V. Particular attention has been given to this subject by the School Nurses during the year. As mentioned in my report for the previous year, difficulties in this respect are mainly caused by certain families who are persistent offenders.

The School Nurses paid 38,352 home visits and District Nurse Midwives 4,452 visits in regard to following up cases recommended for treatment for this and other conditions.

As mentioned in paragraph 4(c) the part-time services of Lay Assistants were engaged in two areas to assist the School Nurses in the cleansing of school children.

## 5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Fortunately there has been no serious epidemic amongst the School children during the year. In accordance with the Revised Joint Memorandum of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education the Committee agreed to revise the periods of exclusion for school children suffering from or in contact with infectious illness.

I would mention again the increased interest that is being taken in immunization against diphtheria. A large number of children both below and of school age have been immunized. Every assistance continues to be given by the Education Authority by granting the use of clinic premises and the assistance of the Medical and Nursing Staffs to the Local Sanitary Authorities.

## 6. NUTRITIONAL DEFECTS AND PROVISION OF MEALS.

From the reports of the School Medical Inspectors there is no evidence that the health and general nutrition of the School children have deteriorated and many School Medical Inspectors remark on the high standard of nutrition. It will be noted from Table II at the end of this report that 96.68% of the children examined in the Routine Age Groups were reported on as being of normal or excellent standard of nutrition as compared with 95.47% in the previous year. The increased provision of milk and meals in school has been of great value in this respect.

The highest number of children partaking of milk in school on one day was 71,569, the average number during the year being 67,304 or 75.6% of children in attendance.

Arrangements for the provision of meals in school continue to increase. This is particularly important in view of the increasing number of mothers now undertaking work and it is hoped that it will not be long before the facilities are available to all schools. 10,853 children had meals during the Spring Term, increasing to 18,241 in the Autumn and 22,214 at the commencement of 1943. The total number of meals served during the year was 2,015,321.

## 7. CHILD GUIDANCE.

The need of a Child Guidance Clinic has been mentioned in previous reports and was also recommended as a result of four Conferences which were arranged by the Committee

to discuss the problem of Juvenile Delinquency. The Committee have decided to extend facilities for psychological investigation.

As mentioned in the Report for the Year 1941, Dr. D. Maclean, School Medical Inspector, has been carrying out some Child Guidance work at the Romford and Ongar Clinics. She reports that this has greatly increased during 1942, and the work at Romford has been transferred to better premises. 106 cases have been seen and classified as follows:- Maladjusted 23, Anxiety states 21, Hysterical 3, Schizophrenics 5, Delinquents 10, Anti-social behaviour 34, Unclassified 1, Unsuitable 9. Improvement is reported to have been obtained in 66 of these cases. Dr. Maclean also gave lectures on this subject to Health Visitors and Teachers, &c.

#### 8. HAROLD WOOD REMAND HOME.

Dr. A. R. Forbes continued to act as Medical Officer. 193 boys were admitted and the daily average in the Home was 32. During the early part of the year there were 3 cases of diphtheria and 19 cases of sore throat. In November there was a sharp outbreak of sore throats and in December two cases of diphtheria. 12 boys were found to be suffering from scabies which was effectively treated by Benzyl Benzoate.

#### 9. "CHAFFORD" APPROVED SCHOOL.

An Approved School for Boys at "Chafford" near Brentwood was opened during the year. This school has also been kept under medical observation by Dr. Forbes.

#### 10. SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

##### (a) Residential.

Arrangements continued under which blind, deaf, mentally defective, epileptic and delicate children are sent to Residential Schools and Convalescent Homes in various parts of the Country.

##### (b) Day.

(i) Dagenham Heathway Special School, with classes for physically and mentally defective children, had 150 children (75 physically defective and 75 mentally defective) on books at the commencement of the year increasing to 176 (75 and 101) at the end of the year.

Of the 26 P.D. children who left during the year, 3 reached the age limit, 9 received permission to leave for employment, 6 returned to elementary school, 2 were transferred to the M.D. class, 1 transferred to Deaf School, 2 to Convalescent Home, 2 withdrawn by parents and 1 died.

Of 25 who left the M.D. Department, 3 reached age limit, 11 for work, 1 to Public Elementary School, 1 evacuated, 5 excluded as ineducable, 2 withdrawn by parents, 1 absent owing to illness, and 1 left the district.



The School Medical Inspector reports:-

"The standards of health, nutrition and cleanliness among the children are not below those of pre-war years. 95% of the children have school meals. Absenteeism has been high on some occasions, but this has undoubtedly been due in part to transport difficulties arising in the School Coach Service."

(ii) Grays Open Air School. The Medical Officer reports as follows:-

"The work of the Open Air School has continued uninterrupted during the past year with satisfactory results. The most notable feature has been the increase in the number of children attending and that more parents are willing to avail themselves of the facilities offered."

"One notable feature is the number of children who are being admitted to this school suffering from pulmonary conditions other than pulmonary tuberculosis."

11. NURSERY CLASSES.

During the year a Nursery Class was opened at the Dagenham Grafton Road Infants' School. Arrangements were made for the children in attendance to be medically inspected annually, for the School Medical Inspector to visit weekly and for treatment to be available at the School Clinic.

12. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Arrangements for the medical inspection and treatment of Secondary School pupils have continued, including the arrangements under which the Education Authorities for the Boroughs of Barking, Leyton and Walthamstow undertake on behalf of the County Education Committee the work in the Secondary Schools in these Boroughs. During the year a similar arrangement was entered into with the Ilford Borough Education Committee in regard to the medical inspection and treatment of the pupils attending the Ilford County High School and Ilford Ursuline High School. The Tables at the end of the Report give particulars of the work carried out.

13. SUNDAY CINEMA FUND.

This fund, which is administered at the Central Office from monies allocated from the Sunday Entertainments Tax, has been of considerable assistance in connection with the treatment of school children by making grants in necessitous cases towards the cost of travelling expenses to clinics, hospitals, convalescent homes, etc.

14. HEALTH EDUCATION, PROPAGANDA, ETC.

The School Medical, Dental and Nursing Staff have assisted in this matter by giving lectures and talks etc. as required to Teachers, parents etc. During 1943, arrangements are being made as an experiment for the School Medical Inspector in one area to give a course of lectures to Senior School children on anatomy, physiology and sexual development of the human body,

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

No. of Inspections:

Entrants	...	...	...	27,138
Second Age Group	...	...	...	26,578
Third Age Group	...	...	...	26,025
Total	...	...	...	<u>79,741</u>

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of Special Inspections and Re-inspections: 46,555

TABLE II

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED  
DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

Number of Children Inspected.	A Excellent		B Normal		C Slightly subnormal		D Bad	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
79,741	2648	3.32	74448	93.36	2639	3.31	6	.01

TABLE III.

GROUP I. Treatment of Minor Ailments. (excluding uncleanliness)  
Total Number of Defects treated or under  
treatment during the year under the  
Authority's Scheme 27,687

GROUP II. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme.
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	4,232
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	270
Total	4,502
No. of Children for whom spectacles were	Under the Authority's Scheme.
(a) Prescribed.	2,082
(b) Obtained.	1,959



GROUP III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

	Under the Authority's Scheme.
Received Operative Treatment	1,179
Received other forms of treatment	1,456
Total number treated	2,635

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist.			
(a) Routine age groups	...	...	23,505
(b) Specials	...	...	2,985
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	...	...	<u>26,490</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment...	...	...	14,535
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	20,610
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	33,509
(5) Half days devoted to:	(7) Extractions:		
Inspection 214	Permanent Teeth	3,977	
Treatment 3425	Temporary Teeth	<u>22,434</u>	
Total <u>3639</u>	Total	<u>26,411</u>	
(6) Fillings:	(8) Administrations		
Permanent Teeth 15078	of general		
Temporary Teeth 3774	anaesthetics		
Total <u>18852</u>	for extractions	10,277	
	(9) Other operations:		
	Permanent Teeth	2,101	
	Temporary Teeth	<u>845</u>	
	Total	<u>2,946</u>	

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	8
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	311,333
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	3,640
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	250
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	6
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	3

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

Defect.	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Institution other than a Special School.	At no School or Institution
Blind	3	-	4
Deaf	4	-	4

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Secondary Schools.

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

No. of Inspections in the prescribed groups:

Entrants	...	...	...	972
Second Age Group	...	...	...	3,338
Third Age Group	...	...	...	2,524
Total	...	...	...	<u>6,834</u>

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of Specila Inspections and Re-Inspections	...	...	...	<u>421</u>
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TABLE II

NUTRITION.

No. of children inspected.	Excellent		Normal.		Slightly subnormal		Bad.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
6834	296	4.33	6282	91.92	256	3.75	-	-



TABLE III.

GROUP I. Minor Ailments.

Total number of defects treated ... 189

GROUP II. Defective Vision and Squint.

	No. of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Refraction	691	32	723
Other defect or disease	39	-	39
Total	730	32	762
No. of children for whom spectacles were:			
(a) Prescribed	391	3	394
(b) Obtained	372	3	375

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) No. of children inspected by the Dentists	1773
(2) No. found to require treatment	1213
(3) Number actually treated	3460
(4) Number of half-days devoted to inspection treatment	13 577
(5) Number of teeth filled	4550
(6) Number of teeth extracted	772

